

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS COLOMBO 002199

SIPDIS

USDOC FOR 4530/ITA/MAC/ANESA/OSA  
EMBASSIES FOR FCS OFFICES  
STATE FOR SA/INS, EB

E.O 12958: N/A

TAGS: [BEXP](#) [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [BTIO](#) [CE](#) [ECONOMICS](#)

SUBJECT: IMI: OIL EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY IN SRI  
LANKA

1. Summary: Hoping to begin off-shore oil prospecting soon, the Sri Lanka Government intends to announce its plans to international oil companies at a workshop in early 2004. End Summary.

2. The Government plans to open areas in the Mannar Basin off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka for oil exploration. Keen to engage the participation of international oil companies, the GSL will hold a workshop in Colombo for interested companies in the first quarter of 2004. At this workshop, the terms and conditions for exploration and general information on petroleum prospects of the area, the regulatory environment, business climate and incentives will be announced. Following the workshop, the GSL hopes to issue oil exploration licenses to about nine companies through a competitive bidding process.

3. The Parliament has recently approved a new Petroleum Resources Act to facilitate oil exploration by private companies. The Act provides for the establishment of a Petroleum Resources Development Committee and a Petroleum Resources Secretariat to coordinate exploration activities. The GSL is also in the process of finalizing petroleum operation regulations and model contracts under the new Act.

4. U.S. companies interested in bidding can purchase exploration data from the following companies:

New seismic data acquired in June 2001 are available from:

TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company Ltd.  
Level 5 MLC Building  
1100, Hay Street  
West Perth 6005  
Western Australia.  
Ph: 618-9480-0000  
Fax: 618-9321-5312  
Contact Person: Paul Gilleran  
Email: paulg@tgsnopec.com.au

Information on TGS NOPEC can be found on  
[www.tgsnopec.no](http://www.tgsnopec.no)

A satellite gravity study completed in 2002 can be obtained from:

Petroscan AB  
Ovanskogsliden 12  
41119, Gothenburg  
Sweden.  
Ph: 46-31-101720  
Fax: 46-31-135184  
Contact person: Mr. Bert Lundgren  
Email: bert@petroscan.se

Information on Petroscan AB can be found on  
[www.petroscan.se](http://www.petroscan.se)

5. US companies may contact the following GSL agency for information regarding the upcoming workshop:  
Ministry of Power and Energy, 80 Sir Ernest De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 7. Sri Lanka. Ph: 94-11-256-4847  
Fax: 94-11-256-4474. Contact Person: M. Warnakulasooriya, Secretary.

LUNSTEAD